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P 131105Z MAY 08  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6668  
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEADWD/DA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 3812  
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 0451  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 4094  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 4617  
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 3827  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 2107  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 4576  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1446  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1890  
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 8438  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 5919  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0829  
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY 4948  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 6898  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 9687  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001034

STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM  
NSC FOR NEA STAFF

SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA  
HQ USAF FOR XXXX  
DA WASHDC FOR SASA  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA  
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR  
COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR PAO/POLAD  
COMSIXTHFLT FOR 019

JERUSALEM ALSO ICD  
LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL  
PARIS ALSO FOR POL  
ROME FOR MFO

SIPDIS  
E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

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SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:  
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- [1](#)1. Mideast
- [1](#)2. Lebanon

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Key stories in the media:  
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All media reported that yesterday President Bush granted interviews to Israeli reporters ahead of his visit to the country. The media made it difficult to identify the journalists the President was responding to. Ha'aretz reported that the President told the

newspaper that the peace process is not dependent is not dependent on a single individual. Media quoted Bush as saying after the meeting that PM Ehud Olmert is an "honest guy," easy to talk with, and a "strategic thinker, and that the relations between the two leaders are "nothing but excellent." Yet, at the same time, he stressed that the peace process does not depend on Olmert, and even named two possible replacements for him: FM Tzipi Livni, who is number two in Olmert's Kadima party, and Defense Minister Ehud Barak, who heads Labor. Among the Palestinians as well, Bush noted, more than one man is involved in the peace talks; it is not just PA President Mahmoud Abbas. And therefore, regardless of the outcome of the investigation, Bush still hopes "to get something defined" by the end of this year. Specifically, he would like to see Israel and the PA agree on the borders of a future Palestinian state -- something Secretary Rice, is convinced is achievable. Bush stressed that he is not coming to "demand" progress, but rather to "encourage" the negotiations. Leading media quoted Bush as saying: "The U.S. cannot impose peace, nor can it decide where the border between Israel and Palestine should lie. Nevertheless, he added, the Palestinians must be assured that they will receive a st